

# **SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 END OF THE YEAR REPORT - 2005**

## **Foreword**

Often people ask me how I like my job and my answer is , “I love my job. No job on earth is exempt from problems, long hours, frustrations and headaches, but this job can make a huge difference for District 10 residents and the City as a whole.” The following report will help you to understand why I feel as I do. I am very, very fortunate to have the opportunity to represent you. Many thanks for all you do.

Writing an annual report is part of good, sound business practice and the reason for my Annual Report is threefold:

- To give you an idea of what your Councilmember does all year.
- To give an updated overview of the progress of the District:
- To fulfill a campaign pledge to keep the residents of District 10 informed, to be accountable, to be transparent in my activities and to be fiscally responsible.

Let me begin by thanking the many people to whom I am grateful:

- To my family for their support and patience.
- To my staff for the outstanding work they do and their dedication to District 10.
- To the local community newspapers for their fantastic coverage.
- To the Homeowners associations for their advice, volunteerism and willingness to serve for the betterment of their community.
- To the non-profit organizations who have doubled their efforts to meet increasing needs despite harsh economic conditions.
- To the many neighbors, friends and all of you who have taken the time to say hello and ask how things are going. Keep your inquiries, suggestions and comments coming.
- To our wonderful District 10 volunteers who truly care about maintaining and improving our exceptional District.

## **Office Statistics**

We received approximately 10,000 phone calls and 7500 E-mails this year. Our goal is to respond to all calls and emails that require action within a 24 hour period. Because of the quantity of calls and messages and the complexity of certain issues, it is not always possible to respond to every call that quickly and we apologize for any delays.

I attended 37 Council meetings, which required about 37,000 pages\* of reading. This does not count special reports and reading preparation for committee meetings.

I cast over 800 votes during the year and each one was carefully studied. Your input is extremely important to me, so keep it coming.

I also attended meetings or events five to seven nights a week including Saturdays and Sundays and have accepted 90% of the requests for attendance.

## **Top Ten Constituent Concerns**

1. Streetlight Repairs
2. Weeds and Code Enforcement Issues
3. Earthquakes Soccer
4. NorCal Scandal
5. Traffic light Synchronization
6. DOT – street repairs
7. Speeding & Traffic
8. Newsletter & Website Concerns & Requests
9. News related items (inquiries related to various events and stories around D10 & SJ)
10. Neighborhood Beautification

\* The City Clerk uses approximately one ream of paper per Councilmember per Council meeting printed on both sides of the paper.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Goal – Communicate with District 10 Residents**

### **Web Site**

I want to make sure that residents in District 10 are consistently informed about upcoming events and ongoing concerns in District 10.

- As a result the web site is routinely updated with the latest news and information. District 10 has the most frequently updated Council web site.
- My staff strives to ensure that residents can find answers to their questions and use the web site as a source for upcoming events.

### **Newsletter**

We work hard to make sure that the monthly newsletter covers all events in the District, City Hall updates, and helpful information for residents. Creating and expanding our email list has been a major project this year and will continue into the future.

- Prior newsletters can be found at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district10/>.
- Many hours have been spent building and maintaining our distribution list. If you are not on our email list, send us an email requesting your address be added. Our email address is [District10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District10@sanjoseca.gov).

### **Media**

We also work closely with local media to ensure they have material needed to inform residents.

- Sent regular press releases.
- Sent Newsletter releases.

## **Forums / Discussion-and-Dessert**

Provided residents with information surrounding issues important to District 10.

- Coyote Valley development
- Emergency Preparedness.

We will continue this program on a by-monthly basis in 2006. Focus will include:

- Almaden Community Center and Library
- Crime Prevention

## **Homeowner, Neighborhood & Community Associations**

- Increased District 10 presence and outreach to these groups.
- Councilmember or a staff member attended all meetings and events to gauge priorities of neighborhoods and follow-up with concerns.

## **Neighborhood Cleanups**

- Organized four neighborhood cleanups in D10 neighborhoods.

## **Almaden Art & Wine Festival**

- D10 booth supplied resources to connect residents to City Services.
- Crime Prevention Unit of SJPd shared the D10 booth.
- Free Prevention booklet and emergency manuals were distributed.
- Assistant Police Chief, Tuck Younis, Fire Chief Clett, Firefighter's Association VP, Mark Skeen, Redevelopment Director Harry Mavrogenes, his assistant, John Weis and David Burke, Manager, Oakridge Shopping Center attended and were introduced to the audience.

## **Formed alliance with County**

We are actively working with Supervisor Gage multiple times to expedite District projects.

- Reached agreement about right-of-way property for widening Branham Lane and Snell Avenue (Final Agreement is pending City Council approval).
- Soccer Field site investigation and identification.
- Pierce Ranch / Quicksilver County Park agreement on parking lot.
- New Almaden neighborhood meeting addressed County resident's concerns regarding City property in area. Concerns have been addressed.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Goal – Fiscal Responsibility**

Voted in favor of the 2005-06 San Jose City Budget City budget that with very limited funds still delivered projects and services to residents.

- Led charge to keep libraries open on Monday.
- Fought to keep Crime Prevention Unit of SJPd.
- Worked to protect Homework Centers.
- Pursued potential revenue streams for the City.
- Stayed within the District 10 budget constraints.
- Awarded the following HP Grants:
  - Pioneer High School Mens Soccer Team
  - Hospice of the Valley
  - Almaden Art & Wine Festival
  - Lupus Foundation
  - San Jose Earthquakes
  - Almaden Counseling Service
  - Assistance League
  - Franklin McKinley Foundation
  - YWCA

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Goal – Accountability**

- Communicated with District 10 regarding progress and news reports.
- Met with District 10 residents regularly.
- Met with the following persons on a monthly basis:  
Mayor Gonzales.  
City Manager Del Borgsdoff.  
Planning Director Steven Haas.  
Redevelopment Director Harry Mavrogenes.  
City Attorney Rick Doyle.
- Met with other Directors on an as needed basis. Voted for an Independent Investigator after the Grand Jury's conclusions regarding the Mayor and the Norcal garbage contract.
- Voted to support censuring the Mayor after the Independent Investigator confirmed the Grand Jury's conclusion.

### **Other Accomplishments**

#### **Camden Bridge**

- Studied safety concerns regarding this bridge.
- Worked with Parks & Rec, Neighborhood Services (PRNS) and the City Department. Of Transportation (DOT) to find solutions to increase safety at crosswalks.
- PRNS and DOT have defined plan of action and funding to move forward.

#### **Hoffman/Via Monte Strong Neighborhood**

- Increased office's outreach to residents and neighborhoods leaders.
- Listened to neighborhood concerns and attended special events.
- Distributed flyers with community calendar and other important news, such as neighborhood meetings and training session availabilities.

- Met with Hoffman/Via Monte and Pioneer High School Principal and staff to increase mutual understanding and cooperation.

### **Parent Leadership Institute**

- Supported SJ Unified's efforts to spread awareness of leadership institute.
- Acted as a liaison between San Jose Unified and the City.
- Spread awareness of the program through Mayor and Council Offices.
- Spoke as an honored guest at the Institute.

### **Volunteer at Sacred Heart (Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> event) –**

- Organized an opportunity to volunteer at the Sacred Heart Community Service on the day before Thanksgiving and was joined by Mayor Ron Gonzalez, fellow councilmember Forrest Williams, and over 30 Mayor and Council staff members.

### **Jeffrey Fontana Dog Park Grand Opening Event –**

- Worked with Parks and Recreation to plan and host the grand opening of Jeffrey Fontana Dog Park.
- Welcomed dog owners from all over District 10 and passed out District 10 doggy bandanas for the four-legged members of our community.

### **November Invocations –**

Coordinated the invocations for the month of November, bringing in a variety of individuals and groups from the District 10 community to welcome everyone to the City Council meetings. Invocations included:

- A prayer by Father Brendan McGuire of Holy Spirit Parish and School,
- An inspirational speech by Divya Musinipally, an award-winning member of Leland High School's speech and debate team,
- A prayer by Reverend Carole Vincent of the Almaden Hills United Methodist Church,
- A performance by Castillero Middle School's Chamber Singers.

## **District 10 Job Fair**

Initiated the First Annual D-10 Workshop and Job Fair for students at Leland, Pioneer and Gunderson High Schools. The focus was to help High School students to find summer jobs. During the two-day workshop employees from Silicon Valley Workforce Investment Network taught the students how to interview, write resumes, and dress for success.

## **City/School Relationship**

- Worked with SJUSD to better align City Services.
- Worked to promote parenting, ESL and computer training for parents.

## **Almaden Community Center and Library**

- Encouraged Almaden Business Association to raise money for the children's section of library.
- Monitored building progress and completion expectations.
- Started planning for the opening ceremony.

## **Public Safety**

- Heard community concerns regarding speeding and other traffic violations., plus neighborhood break-ins.
- Worked with SJPd to ensure proper corrective steps were being taken.

## **Land Use**

Worked with developers and community on two housing developments in District 10.

- Pierce Ranch – Planned Development which will construct 25 single-family detached residences on a 5.74 acre site.
- Sycamore Terrace – Planned Development which will construct 32 single-family attached residences on a 1.42 gross acre site.



## **Capital Projects**

District 10 added a few wonderful parks to our community in 2005.

- Almaden Lake Phase I
- Almaden Winery Tot Lot

## **Commendations**

Gave commendations to the following groups and individuals:

- Holy Spirit School – Catholic Schools week
- Edith Keep, an octogenarian, for her diligence and support of abused children, riding the bus every day to be a Grandma to these children.
- Meredith Hinz, a sixth grader at St. Francis Cabrini and Caryn Hreha, a fifth grader at Simonds Elementary School, each of whom contributed 10 inches of their hair to the “locks of Love” organization, which provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long term medical hair loss.
- Andy Cook. An 11 year old, who donated his portion of proceeds of “A Christmas Carol”, used his persuasive public speaking skills to convince parishioners of Holy Family Church to raise \$1000 and work further to ultimately raise \$3,700 to Red Cross Tsunami aid relief.
- Ashoorina Youabb and Officer Joaquin Barreto for their courageous work on behalf of the family of Cesar Sanchez, who had left his Soreno gang before his untimely death.
- Hilda Carpenter for her achievements as an Adult Volunteer at the South Valley Family YMCA.
- VEP Home Owner’s Association for their work in the community.
- Mike Hill, Vice Chancellor, San Jose / Evergreen Valley College District for his 35 plus years of service to the community upon his retirement.
- The Assistance League of San Jose for their work in providing clothing and materials for disadvantaged children.
- Karen Bode (Assistance League Member) for her leadership in the Assistance League programs.

- Almaden Valley Counseling Service for its long time support of Teens in Almaden and Blossom Valley.
- Rocky Kramer (AVCS) co-founder and long-time visionary and leader, upon her retirement, for her work with teens.
- Westfield Shopping Towns for their support to the community and our children.
- Almaden Hills United Methodist Church for their community service.
- Pioneer Student Service Award Winners for their incredible work with non-profits.
- Almaden Valley Athletic Club/ Hospice of the Valley for their long time efforts on behalf of our community.

## Committee/Commission Assignments

Regularly attended meetings for the following:

- Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
- All Children Achieve
- Building Strong Neighborhoods
- City/School Collaborative
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Emergency Preparedness Council (Vice Chair)
- Guadalupe/West Valley Flood Control & Watershed Advisory Committee
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority – South County Policy Advisory Committee
- SJ/SC Clean Water Financing Authority
- 2007 Sesquicentennial at San Jose State University (City Liaison)

All of us look forward to serving you in the New Year. Our best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Pyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Pyle  
Councilmember  
District 10